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Medical Education Program

The School of Medicine's educational program is unique. In addition to teaching the usual biomedical sciences that prepare students for providing preventive and curative healthcare, the School also prepares students for working in adverse physiological and psychological environments.

Because of the need for broadly trained uniformed services physicians, the School of Medicine offers a very comprehensive curriculum. Designed to ensure clinical and academic experiences within the School, its teaching hospitals, and various military operational environments, the program includes a core of instruction in human biology.

While initial emphasis is on the basic sciences, integration between clinical and basic sciences is progressive and begins with patient care activities in the first year. This allows students to see not only the physical and biological factors affecting the human body, but also the complex social factors affecting individuals.

Two concepts underscore the USUHS curriculum: that medicine exists to serve society and that physicians must be humanists.

Educational Goals

The School of Medicine's 4-year program, which culminates in the doctor of medicine degree, is aimed at developing students into competent, compassionate uniformed services physicians; creating and fostering an environment of learning and investigative curiosity; and providing the setting for the development of uniformed service medical professionalism.

The specific goals of the School's medical program are:

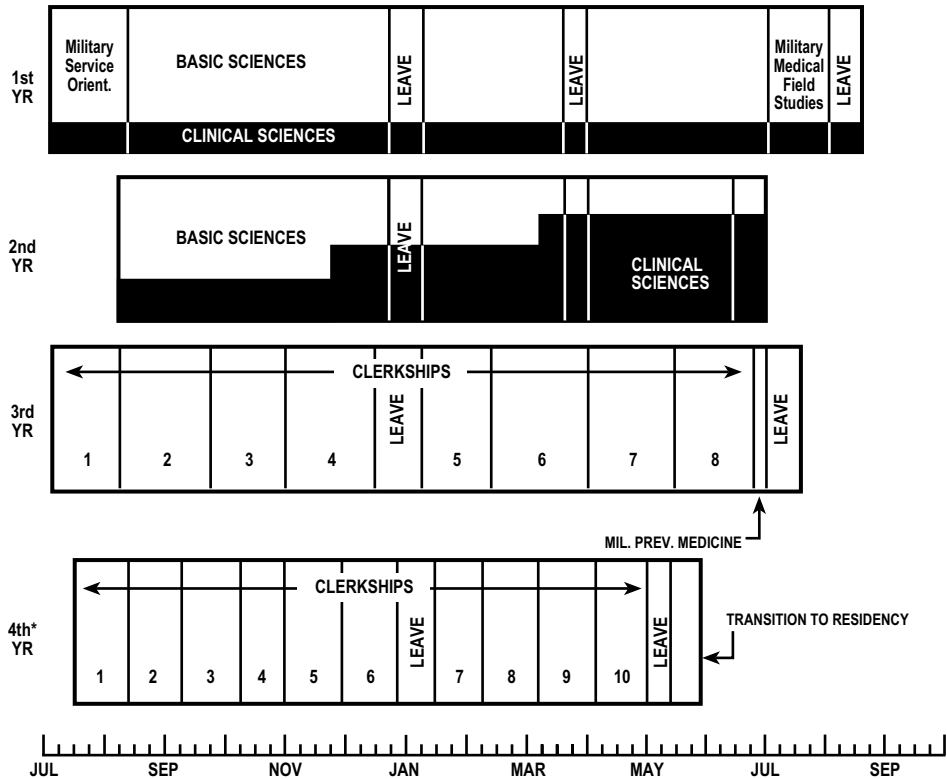
1. To teach the basic knowledge and skills physicians need, including:
 - Normal and abnormal human development, structure, and function
 - The natural history of disease
 - Appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive, and health maintenance methods and skills and knowledge of their limitations
 - Communication and learning resources skills
 - The mission of the military healthcare team and community social services
2. To develop the fundamental attitudes of a humanistic physician-scientist, including:
 - Respect and compassion for others
 - Intellectual honesty, including recognition of personal limitations
 - An appreciation of scholarship and research
 - An understanding of socioeconomic and ethical aspects of medicine
 - The realization that a career in the health sciences is a continuous learning experience
 - An understanding of the physician's role as a uniformed officer, including the requirement for personal physical fitness
 - An inner motivation for life-long learning

The School of Medicine offers more than just a sound, comprehensive medical education. The School's primary objective is to produce dedicated medical officers. Consequently, leadership, military training, and military medical programs are integral parts of the curriculum. Students are expected to master these aspects of their education.

Curriculum

An overview of the curriculum is presented in Figure I. A more detailed description of each year follows. Brief descriptions of courses and clerkships are contained in Appendix B.

FIGURE 1
An Overview of the 4-Year M.D. Program



*MILITARY CONTINGENCY MEDICINE (4 WEEKS) AND MILITARY EMERGENCY MEDICINE (4 WEEKS) COMPRISE TWO OF THE TEN CLERKSHIPS.

First Year

Professional Orientation Courses

Before coming to the School of Medicine in August, freshman students are assigned to a 4-6 week service-specific orientation program. Orientation programs are conducted at the following locations:

Army: U.S. Army Academy of the Health Sciences, Fort Sam Houston, TX

Navy: Officer Indoctrination School, Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, RI

Air Force: Commissioned Officer Training Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter Annex, Montgomery, AL

During these orientations, administrative records are initiated for students entering active duty. Students buy uniforms and learn about their proper wear; learn basic information about their services; gain an understanding about the responsibilities of an officer; and begin to develop a class *esprit de corps*.

Those students not accustomed to life in a uniformed service will find their orientation is both educational and challenging and provides a smooth transition to the uniformed services.

Medical Officer Candidates with prior commissioned service may not be required to attend the Army Officer Basic Course (OBC), the Navy Officer Indoctrination School (OIS), or the Air Force Commissioned Officer Training Course (COT), as determined by each respective service. The Army does require students who are graduating from the United States Military Academy and ROTC programs to attend the OBC in San Antonio. Those individuals that did not graduate from the AMEDD course are required to attend prior to matriculation. The Navy and Air Force do not require service academy and ROTC graduates to attend the summer orientation program.

Following the service orientation program, students report directly to the School of Medicine. A period of time is allocated after arrival for making living arrangements and getting settled in the area. Once classes begin, there is little free time for such matters. During the third week in August, there is a 3-day orientation to the University.

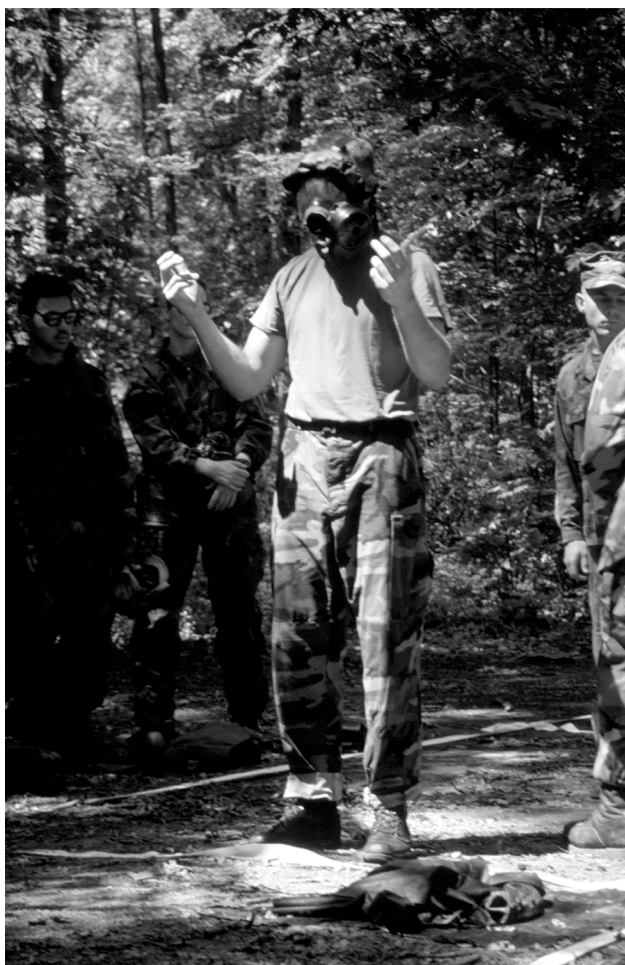
Students then enter a 40-week academic program devoted to the basic biomedical sciences, the psychosocial aspects of health and disease, and an introduction to military medicine and patient care techniques. There are approximately 22 course contact hours for each 1 course credit.

Summer Education

Military medicine is a unique form of occupational medicine. The best way to

understand the medical aspects of occupational hazards is through personal, hands-on experience. The University's Department of Military and Emergency Medicine directs a course called Military Medical Field Studies (MMFS) during the summer following the freshman year in which students have a one-week Field Training Exercise (FTX) called FTX Kerkesner, followed by a 4-week operational assignment. Upon returning to the USUHS at the end of July, students go on leave until mid-August when the second-year classes begin. The MMFS Course is required for graduation from USUHS and is graded as pass/fail.

FTX Kerkesner is conducted at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia. It begins with 2 days of classroom instruction at USUHS, followed by deployment to Quantico for 6 days. While in the field, students function as soldiers, marines, airmen, and platoon/squad leaders. Students learn about nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare; night operations; camouflage; emergency medical care;



patient management on the battlefield; and patient movement via litter, helicopter, armored vehicle, and ambulance. They are also challenged in leadership exercises. On the sixth deployment day, students “redeploy,” meaning they work together to pack up and move all equipment and vehicles back to the USUHS, where everything is cleaned and stored.

Following FTX Kerkesner, students spend the following 4 weeks with an operational unit of their parent service. The purpose is to expose the student to the typical real-world military environment, its medical hazards, and the occasional intensity of an operational exercise. This will better enable the student to understand

the work environment, its physical and psychological stresses, and the personnel for whom the student will be providing medical care in the future. For students who already have extensive operational experience, there are alternatives for the operational summer experience such as a research project, clinical administration, an Emergency Medicine Course, or many other experiences that will enhance and improve the student's understanding of military medicine.

FIRST-YEAR CURRICULUM

First-Year Courses*	Course Numbers	Credit Hours
<i>Biochemistry</i>	<i>BC01001</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Clinical Head, Neck, and Functional Neuroscience</i>	<i>AT01022</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Diagnostic Parasitology and Medical Zoology</i>	<i>PM01002</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Fundamentals of Epidemiology and Biometrics</i>	<i>PM01001</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Human Context in Health Care</i>	<i>FP01001</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Introduction to Clinical Medicine I</i>	<i>ID01004</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Introduction to Structure and Function</i>	<i>AT01020</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Medical Psychology</i>	<i>MP01001</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Military Studies and Medical History</i>	<i>MM01001</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Military Medical Field Studies-Summer</i>	<i>MM01002</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Organ System Function and Microstructure</i>	<i>AT01024</i>	<i>11</i>

*See Appendix B for course descriptions.

Second Year

The second year's 35 weeks of instruction continue to emphasize the basic sciences (Pathology, Pharmacology, and Microbiology) as well as the psychosocial aspects of disease, patient care techniques, and military medicine.

During the second year, emphasis is given to preparation for third-year clerkships by integrating the basic sciences with clinical problems and their management.

Students have a 3-week period for review before taking Step 1 of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).

SECOND-YEAR CURRICULUM

Second-Year Courses*	Course Numbers	Credit Hours
<i>Clinical Concepts</i>	<i>ID02001</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Clinical Pharmacology</i>	<i>ID02012</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Ethical, Legal, and Social Aspects of Medical Care</i>	<i>ID02102</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Human Behavior</i>	<i>PS02001</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Introduction to Clinical Medicine II</i>	<i>ID02103</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Introduction to Clinical Medicine III</i>	<i>ID02111</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Microbiology and Infectious Diseases</i>	<i>MC02001</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Military Studies II</i>	<i>MM02002</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Pathology</i>	<i>PA02001</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Pharmacology</i>	<i>PH02101</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Preventive Medicine</i>	<i>PM02001</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Radiographic Interpretation</i>	<i>RD02001</i>	<i>1</i>

*See Appendix B for course descriptions.

Third Year

The 48-week third year consists of required clinical clerkships in Family Practice, Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery. Leave periods are provided in December and late June.

THIRD-YEAR CURRICULUM

Third-Year Clerkships*	Course Numbers	Credit Hours	Duration
<i>Family Practice</i>	<i>FP03001</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6 weeks</i>
<i>Medicine</i>	<i>MD03001</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12 weeks</i>
<i>Obstetrics and Gynecology</i>	<i>OB03001</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6 weeks</i>
<i>Pediatrics</i>	<i>PD03001</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6 weeks</i>
<i>Psychiatry</i>	<i>PS03001</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6 weeks</i>
<i>Surgery</i>	<i>SU03001</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12 weeks</i>

*See Appendix B for clerkship descriptions.

Fourth Year

Following 1 week of instruction in Military Preventive Medicine, students have 40 weeks of required clerkships and electives, including a required 4-week experience in both Military Contingency Medicine and Military Emergency Medicine.

Leave periods are scheduled for late December and April. Students graduate in May. Step 2 of the USMLE is taken in the fourth year.

FOURTH-YEAR CURRICULUM

Fourth-Year Clerkships*	Course Numbers	Credit Hours	Duration
<i>Military Preventive Medicine</i>	<i>PM04001</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1 week</i>
<i>Military Contingency Medicine</i>	<i>MM04001</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4 weeks</i>
<i>Military Emergency Medicine</i>	<i>MM04002</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4 weeks</i>
<i>Neurology</i>	<i>NE04001</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4 weeks</i>
<i>Subinternships**</i>		<i>15</i>	<i>8 weeks</i>
<i>Medical Selective Block**</i> (to be chosen from Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Practice, Radiology, Dermatology, Preventive Medicine)			<i>8 weeks</i>
<i>Surgical Selective Block**</i> (to be chosen from General Surgery, Surgical Subspecialties, Anesthesiology, Obstetrics/Gynecology)			<i>8 weeks</i>
<i>Behavioral Sciences Selective Block**</i>			<i>4 weeks</i>
<i>Elective Clerkships**</i>			<i>8 weeks</i>

* See Appendix B for clerkship descriptions.

** A subinternship meets the medical, surgical, or behavioral sciences selective block requirement. Students may elect to take an 8–12 week research experience in any approved basic or clinical science area. Selective/elective block clerkships receive 5 credits for each 4-week experience.

Academic Policies

Examinations and Promotions

All courses given by the School of Medicine, including electives, are letter graded. Examination and evaluation methods vary among the departments. Most courses are graded A, B, C, D, or F, although a few are pass/fail.

Grading of academic performance includes evaluation of both cognitive and non-cognitive performance. For each required course, written grading criteria are prepared by the responsible academic department, reviewed periodically by the School of Medicine Curriculum Committee, and distributed to the students at the beginning of the course.

The academic content of several of the basic science and clinical science courses includes participation in laboratories, which may involve the use of laboratory animals. These labs are mandatory. Failure to participate is sufficient grounds for course failure and will result in review by the School of Medicine Student Promotions Committee, which could lead to disenrollment.

A departmental chairperson may exempt a student from fulfilling a course requirement based upon proven expertise (testing out) or academic degrees (master's and/or doctoral).

A grade point average is computed for each student, but an official class standing list is not published. An annual Officer Efficiency Report (performance evaluation) includes the student's class standing by thirds as well as the grade point average for the academic year.

Academic progress is monitored by the Student Promotions Committee. Medical students must maintain satisfactory academic performance to be eligible for promotion to the next year, recommendation for graduation and Graduate Medical Education (GME-1).

Academic competence in cognitive areas is not enough to satisfy USUHS academic requirements. The non-cognitive areas are essential aspects of academic performance during all years of the curriculum.

Failure to complete course work or maintain an acceptable grade point average may cause the Student Promotions Committee to recommend remedial work or dismissal. The final decision to dismiss a student from the School rests with the Dean.

Students have 46 months from the time of matriculation to fulfill all requirements for the M.D. degree. Those who appear to be unable to complete degree requirements on time are immediately considered for dismissal. An extension of time may be given by the Dean, but these exceptions are granted only on an individual basis.

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)

Besides meeting the academic and personal requirements to graduate from the School of Medicine, students must take and pass Steps 1 and 2 of the USMLE.

Both parts of the exam are administered annually by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). The USMLE replaces what was known as Parts I and II of the NBME exam. Step 1 is usually given at the end of the sophomore year (May–June) and Step 2 at the beginning of the senior year (July–September).

Step 1 focuses on the basic sciences, namely Anatomy, Physiology, Behavioral Science, Biochemistry, Pathology, Microbiology, and Pharmacology. Step 2 covers Internal Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry. Fees for both parts of the examination are paid by the School of Medicine.

These tests are used by the School, along with other tests, to determine cognitive mastery in a range of subject material. Performance on the USMLE appears on the student's individual official transcript as pass/fail.

As the faculty regards the passing of Steps 1 and 2 of the USMLE as showing minimal competence, students who fail the exams will appear before the USUHS Student Promotions Committee.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the hallmark of every student and is part of academic performance. Students who violate academic integrity are subject to dismissal even though they are otherwise in good academic standing.

Licensure Requirements

Policies of each of the uniformed services require that a medical officer hold a valid license to practice medicine in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Graduation

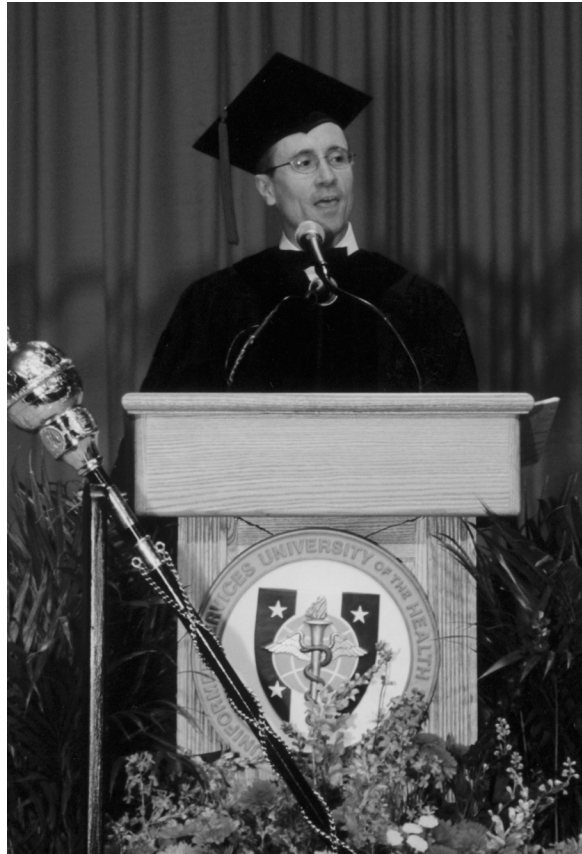
Commencement exercises for the University are held on Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday in May, at the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Graduates receive the M.D. degree, are commissioned into the medical corps of their respective services, and receive a promotion from the O-1 to the O-3 officer rank (Captain in the Army and the Air Force and Lieutenant in the Navy).

The University pays for rental of the graduating seniors' caps and gowns, their diplomas, and printed graduation invitations.

Withdrawal from the School of Medicine

Students may withdraw from the School of Medicine by submitting a letter of resignation through the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to the Dean, stating the reasons for withdrawal.

Students who withdraw voluntarily or are dismissed from the School must perform military duty in an appropriate capacity, as determined by the Secretary of the military service concerned, for a period equal to the period spent in training, but no less than 1 year.



Unless law or service policy requires otherwise, the incurred service obligation for students separated from the School is added to any other prior service commitment. Students who leave the program may be required to repay the Government for the cost of their education.

Student Organizations

Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA)

AOA is the national honor medical society, recognizing and perpetuating excellence in the medical profession. The USUHS Gamma Chapter members are active in tutoring and assisting other students as they adjust to the rigors of medical school. Students are eligible for election to the society in the spring of their third year and fall of their fourth year. Criteria for election include overall academic achievement, contributions to the University and the community, and a high standard of character and personal conduct.

Phi Delta Epsilon (PhiDE)

Phi Delta Epsilon is an international professional fraternity for physicians and medical students. The USUHS Delta Alpha Chapter provides a vehicle for professional development for medical students, fosters close relationships between students and other members of the medical community, and generates an environment wherein students may exercise their talents for service and growth.

American Medical Association-Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS)

The USUHS chapter of AMA-MSS is an affiliate of the AMA and the Medical Chirurgical Society of Maryland. Its primary functions are to keep students informed on national issues concerning medical education, to provide an outlet for voicing ideas, and to aid in career planning.

Association of American Medical Colleges-Organization of Student Representatives (AAMC-OSR)

The OSR is the student voice of the AAMC, an organization uniting U.S. and Canadian medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. The USUHS has two student representatives, but opportunities exist for other students to become involved within this national network advancing academic medicine.

Military Medical Student Association (MMSA)

MMSA is a national organization of over 1,200 members, consisting of USUHS students and students in the Health Professions Scholarship Program throughout the country. As the headquarters for the organization, a primary function of

MMSA at the USUHS is the publication of The Journal of the Military Medical Student Association three times a year, which provides information of interest to medical students in uniform.

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)

The mission of AMSUS is to promote all areas of Federal health care. USUHS students participate in the Baltimore-Washington Student Chapter, whose goals are to stimulate interest in and discussions of military medicine, to provide special opportunities for medical and military education, and to develop leadership.

Student National Medical Association (SNMA)

SNMA is a forum which addresses problems associated with race relations and minority groups, with particular attention given to minority health issues. It also provides a support network for minority students in medicine and is actively involved in exploring ways to increase both minority admissions to and retention in medical school. Activities include lecture series, community-based programs, speaking to local high school students, and social gatherings. SNMA is an affiliate of the national organization based in Washington, D.C.

Women In Medicine (WIM)

As the USUHS chapter of the American Medical Women's Association, WIM provides a support group for women in medicine and a forum for discussion on medical topics, which affect women specifically, and health care providers in general. WIM includes opportunities for service in the local community with emphasis on preventive health and mentoring.

Christian Medical and Dental Society (CMDS)

CMDS is a national organization of Christian physicians, dentists, and medical and dental students, with the purpose of motivating and equipping doctors to practice their Christian faith in their personal and professional lives. The USUHS Chapter provides opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to grow spiritually, develop Christian relationships, and serve the University community.

Student Government

Each medical school class elects officers to manage class business and activities and to represent and advocate student interests in the USUHS community. Class elections are conducted on an annual basis. The Student Advisory Council is the student forum designed to study issues across class lines and provide a student body consensus, which may be communicated to responsible USUHS officials.

A particularly important part of student government is the Academic Council in each class, which consists of approximately 12 students who relate to every course and every course director throughout medical school. This system provides an intimate relationship between faculty and students to facilitate communication and mutual understanding.



Interest Groups

The USUHS offers a great variety of interest groups, many affiliated with national sponsoring organizations. These groups exist to provide opportunities to learn about careers and foster interest in specific medical specialties, spend time with physicians in an office or hospital environment, and often become involved in medically-related service projects. Current interest groups include Aerospace Medical Student Organization, Club Med—Internal Medicine Interest Group, Emergency Medicine Student Association, The Cutting Edge—Surgical Interest Group, Family Medicine Interest Group, Obstetrics/Gynecology Interest Group, Student Pediatric Society, and Undersea Medicine Interest Group.

Students for AIDS Education (SFAE)

SFAE is dedicated to educating youngsters in the community about the human immunodeficiency virus and AIDS. USUHS student volunteers visit middle schools and high schools in the local area to discuss the virus, how the infection is spread, methods of prevention, and attitudes toward people with AIDS. SFAE conducts a brief training program early in the academic year for prospective members.

Student Spouses Club

The Student Spouses Club exists primarily to help spouses of medical students meet others in similar situations to their own and to form friendships to help them through the medical school years. The club offers many activities throughout the year, including monthly meetings and social activities for each class.



The Gouge and The CADUSUHS

The Gouge is the student newspaper focusing on the freshman and sophomore classes of the School of Medicine and provides information on current events, stimulates the exchange of ideas, and records the history of the institution from the student perspective. The CADUSUHS is the University's yearbook. Both publications are produced totally by students with all positions filled by volunteers who learn from more experienced students.

The Dermatones

The Dermatones is an a cappella men's and women's singing group, singing both barbershop and traditional choral arrangements. The group performs at numerous University functions throughout the year (including mess dinners, social occasions, and memorial services) and special functions in the Washington, D.C., area.

University Religious Program

The University chaplain and staff extend to you a warm welcome to the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. Our goal is to support and enhance the quality of life of military personnel and their families through spiritual development. Ways we can help include:

- Locating a place of worship – military chapel or civilian church, synagogue, or mosque
- Performing religious sacraments/ordinances, rites and ceremonies
- Providing religious education and instruction
- Providing pastoral care – visit the hospitalized and confined
- Providing pastoral counseling – moral, ethical, religious, crisis, grief, etc.

The free exercise of religion is a Constitutional right of United States citizens. The Office of the Chaplain facilitates the free exercise of religion for military personnel and their families. Chaplain ministry is needs-based, performed cooperatively, and executed within a pluralistic environment.

Since the University mission revolves around our students, so does the design of our religious program. Faith-specific Student Associations are formed as needs arise. Faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in the Student Association of their choice and support/mentor the students in their spiritual formation in a similar manner as they do academically. Within regulations under the University President and the Brigade Commander, and administered by the Office of the Chaplain, the Student Associations are self-governed to meet the needs and interests of their constituents. Currently we have the following groups at USU:

- Protestant Student Association
- Catholic Student Association
- Latter-Day Saint Student Association
- Jewish Student Association
- Islamic Student Association

Others can form as needed. Contact the Office of the Chaplain for more information on the group of your choice.

In summary, we want you to be your best so you can do your best in medical school. If something is distracting you from doing this, your chaplain is a safe and caring place to start with plenty of potential resources to help, regardless of your faith group.

The Office of the Chaplain is located near the Student Lounge, in Room C1098, phone: (301) 295-9658/3193. For more information or to email the chaplain for

an appointment or with questions, the website is under the “ADMIN DEPARTMENTS” link on the USU homepage at www.usuhs.mil.

Academic and Leadership Awards

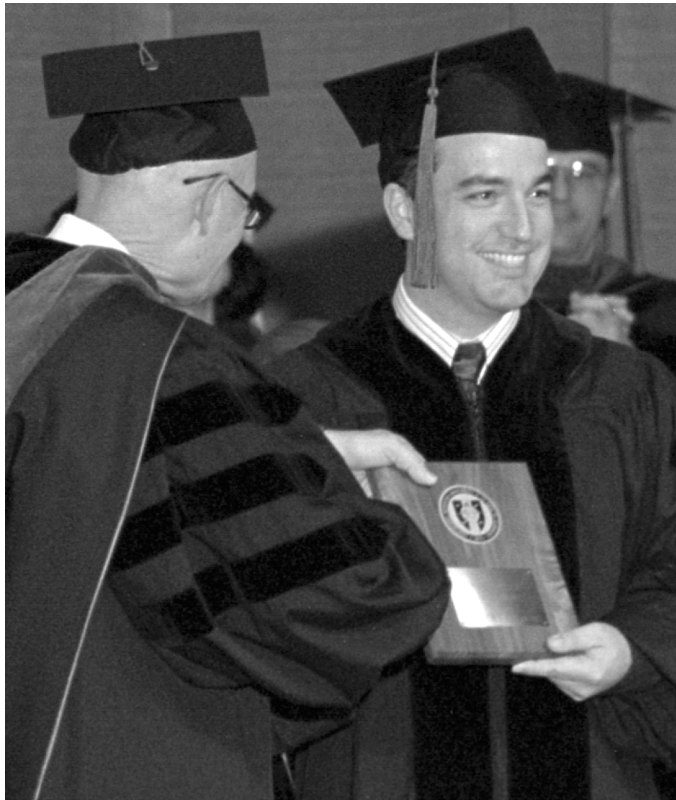
The University holds an annual Academic Collegium where undergraduates from each of the first 3 years of medical school are honored for their scholastic achievements in courses and clerkships.

In addition, the following awards are made to graduating seniors:

Board of Regents Award

The Board of Regents Award is the highest honor a graduating senior can receive.

The recipient will have demonstrated a combination of superior academic performance and clinical competence, commitment, and care, reflecting the highest level of duty and honor expected of a commissioned officer.



Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces Award

The Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces Award recognizes the class valedictorian, the graduate who demonstrates the highest level of academic performance.

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Award

The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Award is presented to the graduate who has best demonstrated the qualities of leadership and academic involvement. Consideration is also given to military motivation and bearing.

Surgeons General Awards

The Surgeons General Awards are awards given to one graduate from each of the uniformed services whose contributions and role in the class have strongly identified him or her with the mission of that service. Each awardee has demonstrated a combination of academic achievement, medical professionalism, commitment to fellow students, and creative, sensitive leadership.

Ésprit de Corps Award

The Ésprit de Corps Award, chosen by students of the graduating class, recognizes the individual in that class who by thought, word, and action demonstrates the humanistic qualities of compassion, caring, and concern for the well-being of all.